



Education Watch

Enhancing Flexibility & Accountability ■ Leaving No Child Behind

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President Bush's Education Plan Scores with Parents

Parents overwhelmingly support President Bush's education plan according to a new Fabrizio, McLaughlin national telephone survey of 1,000 parents of children in school (kindergarten through college).

"Student testing, sending parents annual report cards on their school's progress, identifying and attempting to help failing schools, and public school choice for parents and children stuck in failing schools are all given high marks," said Tony Fabrizio, President of Fabrizio, McLaughlin & Associates.

Initially, just 45 percent of voters had an opinion on the President's education proposal. But when read the main elements of the plan, 74 percent of these parents of school-aged children supported the plan. "Our survey data clearly shows that once they hear the specifics of the plan, they approve overwhelmingly," said Fabrizio.

The survey data also shows that raising parental awareness of the Bush education plan boosts Bush's job approval ratings as well -- especially among Hispanic and African-American parents.

After hearing more about the Bush plan, his job approval ratings increase from 56 percent to 61 percent overall and increase 14.8 percent with Hispanic parents (from 41.1 percent to 55.9 percent). **Clearly, a large majority of Americans support the President's plan to empower parents and leave the status quo behind.**

Message of the Day

President Bush's plan targets federal education resources toward helping disadvantaged students, those who need it the most.

- ❑ *H.R. 1 gives states and local school districts unprecedented flexibility while holding them accountable for closing the achievement gap.*
- ❑ *The bill empowers parents with information about the progress their children are making, the quality of the schools they're attending, and the qualifications of the teachers who are teaching them.*
- ❑ *It gives parents new options and provides a safety valve for disadvantaged children trapped in failing schools.*

DAILY EDUCATION FACTS

- H.R. 1 reduces the overall number of ESEA programs from 66 to 44.
- The measure dramatically enhances flexibility for local school districts, giving them the freedom to transfer up to 50 percent of their federal education dollars **without first having to obtain permission from anyone -- including the U.S. Department of Education or the state.**
- The bill allows parents to remove their child from a low-performing school and send them to a different public school immediately after their school has been identified as failing.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Through this education reform package, we're going to give every child an opportunity to learn and go to college. It contains more money, more flexibility, and more accountability than ever before. It includes annual testing, so that we can make sure that no child is left behind. And, it makes reading a key component, because reading is the foundation of all other learning." -- House Speaker J. Dennis Hastert, *The Hill*, July 25, 2001